Halloween DUI Checkpoint -Statewide Activation

OHS Activates Operation Checkpoint StrikeForce For All 3 counties This Weekend

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Dover, Del. (October 25, 2019) — The <u>Delaware Office of Highway Safety</u> is coordinating Operation Checkpoint Strikeforce in each county statewide for Halloween weekend. This zero-tolerance initiative in Delaware, implemented since 2002, is designed to get impaired drivers off of our roads using checkpoints and patrols. The initiative also aims to educate drivers on the dangers and consequences of driving impaired including injury, death, and over \$6,000 in fines (for the first DUI).

During Halloween Weekend, <u>Delaware State Police</u> and local law enforcement will be conducting DUI checkpoints in all three counties on Saturday, October 26th, into Sunday morning, October 27th, from 10 PM to 2 AM, as follows:



- US-40 in Newark
- US-13 in Dover
- Sussex Highway in Seaford

So far in 2019, there are 16 confirmed DUI fatalities (note: this number is not final as there are crashes still under investigation for impairment).

"This year, Halloween falls on a Thursday, so we're certain to see extra celebrations throughout this weekend, and everyone celebrating should plan to ensure a ride home," said *Kimberly Chesser*, *Director*, *Delaware Office of Highway Safety*. "If you plan to drink, there are many options for a safe ride home. Have a friend designated as a sober driver, or use a rideshare service such as Uber or Lyft."

In addition to the Halloween Weekend Checkpoint Strikeforce, OHS wants to remind the public of best practices for a safe night on the roads this Halloween:

- If you plan to drink, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.
- Find a safe ride statewide from the OHS Safe Ride resource link https://www.arrivealivede.com/Drive-Sober/Safe-Rides#wilmington.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact local law enforcement.
- Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely. They're worth it.
- \circ For more information on the consequences of driving impaired, visit

https://www.arrivealivede.com/Drive-Sober/Consequences.

You can follow the Delaware Office of Highway Safety by clicking on:

<u>Delaware Office of Highway Safety Web Site</u>

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■ About the Delaware Office of Highway Safety

The Office of Highway Safety (OHS) is committed to improving the safety of Delaware's motoring public by focusing on behavioral traffic safety issues such as impaired driving, seat belt use, speeding, child passenger safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety, motorcycle safety, and teen driving issues. FAOs can be found at ArriveAliveDE.com.